

Previously amended and original claims

1. (Previously Amended) A method for automated generation of installation instructions for an executable software application, comprising:

- a. retrieving template installation instruction information from a persistent data store;
- b. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application;
- c. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form installation instruction data; and
- d. storing the derived installation instruction data.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises extracting installation data supporting data exchange between different systems from the configuration data, the installation data comprising at least two of:

- i. an identity of a directory to contain the application;
- ii. an identity of data files comprising the application;
- iii. an identity of a communication protocol to be used by the application;
- iv. communication settings for the application;
- v. suggested performance enhancement settings for the application; and
- vi. prompting questions to be answered by a user upon installation of the application.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said executable software application is an interface application enabling communication between said different systems and said different systems comprise executable applications.

4. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, including the step of formatting the derived installation instruction data as installation documentation for reproduction on an output device, the output device comprising a printer and a video display.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the derived installation instruction data comprises installation instruction text data for output as installation documentation.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising selecting an output format for the installation documentation, the output format comprising Rich Text Format, Microsoft® Word compatible format, HTML document format, and Extensible Mark-up Language (XML) compatible format.
7. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further comprises selecting a file containing the template installation instruction information from a plurality of files containing a corresponding plurality of installation instruction documentation templates for interface applications supporting data exchange between different systems.
8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a prompt question generating routine for inclusion in the installation instruction data by incorporating prompt questions into a predetermined question prompting executable procedure, the prompt questions being for answer by a user upon installation of the application.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the prompt questions to be answered by a user upon installation of the application are derived from the configuration data.
10. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating prompt question documentation for inclusion in the installation instruction data, the prompt question being for answer by a user upon installation of an interface application supporting data exchange between different systems.
11. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a map for associating items of the derived installation related information and corresponding locations in the template installation information for use in incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information and supporting data exchange between different systems.

12. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein
said executable software application is an interface application used in
exchanging data between different systems comprising a first executable
application and a different second executable application; and further
comprising prompting a user to select at least one of the first executable
application and the second executable application.
13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - i. the system for automated generation of installation instruction
documentation for an executable software application is located on a
storage medium together with the application.
14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein
said executable software application is an interface application enabling
communication and data exchange between said different systems and
said different systems comprise executable applications to be enabled to
communicate using installation data extracted from the configuration data, including
at least one of, (a) a communication protocol identifier and (b) communication
settings for at least one of said different systems.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the template installation instruction
information comprises predetermined text installation instructions and an executable
procedure for generating installation instructions upon procedure execution.

16. (Previously Amended) A method for automated generation of installation instructions for an executable software application, comprising:

- a. retrieving template installation instruction information from a data store, the installation instruction information including prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application;
- b. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application;
- c. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form installation instruction data; and
- d. presenting the installation instruction data to a user during an installation of the application.

17. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein

said executable software application is an interface application enabling communication and data exchange between said different systems and

said different systems comprise executable applications to be enabled to communicate using installation data extracted from the configuration data, including at least one of, (a) a communication protocol identifier and (b) communication settings for at least one of said different systems.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising creating a prompt question generating procedure for generating the prompt questions for answer by the user.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising selecting the prompt questions from a larger set of prompt questions.

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20. (Previously Amended) A user interface method supporting installation of an executable software application, comprising:

- a. initiating display of application installation instructions including prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application, the application installation instructions being formed by:
 - i. retrieving template installation instruction information from storage,
 - ii. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application, and
 - iii. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form the application installation instructions; and
- b. installing the executable software application in response to user command received via the displayed prompt questions.

21. (Previously Amended) A user interface method supporting automated generation of installation instruction documentation for an executable software application, comprising:

- a. initiating display of application installation instructions formed by:
 - i. retrieving template installation instruction information from storage, the installation instruction information including prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application,
 - ii. deriving installation related information supporting data exchange between different systems from configuration data associated with the application, and
 - iii. incorporating the derived installation related information into the template installation information to form the application installation instructions; and
- b. initiating display of the prompt questions for answer by a user upon installation of the application.

22. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein
- a. said executable software application is an interface application used in exchanging data between different systems comprising a first executable application and a different second executable application and
 - b. the prompt questions prompt a user to select at least one of the first executable application and the second executable application.
23. (Previously Amended) A system for automated generation of installation instructions for an executable software application, comprising:
- a. configuration data for a software interface;
 - b. a template, comprising documentation and data fields to receive one or more configuration data elements;
 - c. a computer system comprising a memory and a processor; and
 - d. software executable in the computer system for creating a data file containing installation data supporting data exchange between different systems derived from configuration data and incorporated into the template, the installation data comprising documentation of an installation process for the software interface.